

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-27. (canceled).

Claim 28 (previously presented): A telecommunication system for transmitting data via at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks, the telecommunication system being supplied with at least one clock signal as synchronization source from the at least one transmission network, the telecommunication system comprising:

at least one interface unit for receiving data from the at least one transmission network, the data describing a quality of the clock signal supplied via the at least one transmission network;

a device for assessing the quality of the at least one clock signal; and

a converter in the at least one interface unit which converts the data describing the quality of the clock signal into messages, the format of the messages being independent of a format of the data transmitted, and which transmits the messages to the device for assessment.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the converter receives additional messages from the device and converts the additional messages into data of a format of the at least one transmission network.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the data contains both user data and supplementary data, the quality of the clock signal being described by the supplementary data.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the plurality of different transmission networks includes at least one PDH transmission network.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the plurality of different transmission networks includes at least one SDH transmission network.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the plurality of different transmission networks includes at least one SONET transmission network.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the messages for describing the quality contain numerical values within a value range.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the value range is at least as wide as a largest value range of the data transmitted.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the value range includes four bits of a byte.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system which is connected to at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks, the telecommunication system being supplied with at least one clock signal from the at least one transmission network as a synchronization source, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving data, from the at least one transmission network and in a format used in the at least one transmission network, which describes a quality of the clock signal supplied;

converting the data into messages of a format which is independent of the format of the received data;

assessing the quality of the clock signal by assessing the messages;

deciding whether the telecommunication system is to be synchronized with the clock signal; and

synchronizing the telecommunication system with the clock signal if it is decided that the telecommunication system is to be synchronized with the clock signal.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the step of receiving data includes the steps of receiving user data and of receiving supplementary data, the data describing the quality of the clock signal being the supplementary data.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the data is data of a PDH transmission network.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the data is data of an SDH transmission network.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the data is data of a SONET transmission network.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the step of converting the data into messages includes recalculating a value of the quality of the clock signal into a value of an independent value range.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 42, wherein the step of recalculating is reversible without loss.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 42, wherein the step of recalculating includes setting four bits of one byte.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the step of deciding includes selecting a highest-quality clock signal.

Claim 46 (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunication system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the step of deciding includes selecting a clock signal having a quality which is above a threshold value.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A method for transmitting data from a telecommunication system into at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks, the data describing a quality of a clock signal with which the telecommunication system is synchronized, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a message describing the quality in a format which is independent of formats of the data to be transmitted;

converting the messages into data of a format used in the at least one transmission network; and

transmitting the data into the at least one transmission network.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A method for transmitting data from a telecommunication system into at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks as claimed in claim 47, wherein the data includes both user data and supplementary data, the data describing the quality of the clock signal being the supplementary data.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A method for transmitting data from a telecommunication system into at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks as claimed in claim 47, wherein the data is data of a PDH transmission network.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A method for transmitting data from a telecommunication system into at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks as claimed in claim 47, wherein the data is data of an SDH transmission network.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A method for transmitting data from a telecommunication system into at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks as claimed in claim 47, wherein the data is data of a SONET transmission network.

Claim 52 (previously presented): A method for transmitting data from a telecommunication system into at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks as claimed in claim 47, wherein the step of converting the messages into data includes recalculating the value of the quality of the clock signal into a value of an independent range.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A method for transmitting data from a telecommunication system into at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks as claimed in claim 52, wherein the step of recalculating is reversible without loss.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A method for transmitting data from a telecommunication system into at least one of a plurality of different transmission networks as claimed in claim 52, wherein the step of recalculating includes setting four bits of one byte.